

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

SS-15 NSC-10 STR-08 AGR-20 CPR-02 RSR-01 /183 W

----- 112915

R 191045 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7545

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, SZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR FOR PUBLIC ECONOMY

BRUGGER TO WASHINGTON

SUMMARY. ERNST BRUGGER, SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC ECONOMY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF SWISS CONFEDERATION , WILL VISIT WASHINGTON MAY 9- 12 AND REQUESTS APPOINTMENTS WITH HIGH USG OFFICIALS. PUBLIC ECONOMY DEPARTMENT COVERS NUMBER OF AREAS OF CONTINUING HIGH INTEREST TO USG, AND IS SWISS AGENCY CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING UPCOMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. BRUGGER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS PAUL JOLLES AND KLAUS JACOBI WHO ARE, RESPECTIVELY, DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE IN TRADE DIVISION FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND US- SWISS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. EMBASSY URGES HIGH- LEVEL RECEPTION OF BRUGGER AND PARTY. SEPARATE TELEGRAM GIVES TOPICS TO BE RAISED DURING TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ERNST BRUGGER, SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR FOR PUBLIC ECONOMY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFEDERATION DURING 1973, WILL VISIT THE US IN EARLY MAY TO ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETINGS OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN NEW YORK CITY. WHILE IN THE US HE WISHES TO PAY A VISIT

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TO WASHINGTON, MAY 9-12, TO MEET HIS COUNTERPARTS IN USG. ALTHOUGH CALLS WOULD BE LARGELY OF COURTESY NATURE, BRUGGER ALSO EXPECTS TO RAISE TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST.

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ECONOMY ENCOMPASSES SWISS DIVISIONS FOR TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND LABOR. BRUGGER CONSEQUENTLY IS RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL COUNCILOR FOR A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF CONTINUING HIGH INTEREST TO THE USG, MOST IMPORTANTLY, FOREIGN TRADE AND PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPRESENTS SWITZERLAND AT VARIOUS OECD MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOR EXAMPLE THE ANNUAL OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE OECD AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING. AT THE FEDERAL COUNCIL LEVEL, HE IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. BRUGGER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR PAUL JOLLES, DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE DIVISION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEW STYLE. HE WILL BE JOINED DURING VISIT BY AMBASSADOR KLAUS JACOBI, TRADE DELEGATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR US- SWISS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

4. UNDERSTAND BRUGGER HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS THROUGH SWISS EMBASSY WITH SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS, COMMERCE SECRETARY DENT, AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ AND LABOR SECRETARY BRENNAN. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR JOLLES REQUESTS THROUGH THIS EMBASSY THAT APPOINTMENT BE ARRANGED FOR BRUGGER WITH CEA CHAIRMAN STEIN.

5. CALLS ON SECRETARIES DENT, BUTZ AND BRENNAN ARE SUGGESTED BECAUSE SWISS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ECONOMY ENCOMPASSES RESPONSIBILITIES OF THESE US FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS. (ADDITIONALLY, BRUGGER MET SECRETARY BUTZ AT RECENT OECD AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING AND WISHES BRIEF FOLLOWUP DISCUSSION.) BRUGGER DESIRES SPEAK WITH TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND WITH CEA CHAIRMAN STEIN REGARDING SUCCESS OF US ANTI- INFLATIONARY PROGRAM AND RELEVANCE OF US EXPERIENCE TO SWITZERLAND. CALL ON SECRETARY ROGERS IS TO RENEW CONTACT ESTABLISHED AT 1972 OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND FOR A VERY GENERAL REVIEW STATE OF US- SWISS RELATIONS.

6. BRUGGER, JOLLES AND JACOBI ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT SWISS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT. ALTHOUGH BRUGGER VISITED US SOME YEARS AGO AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ZURICH CANTONAL GOVERNMENT, HE HAS NEVER VISITED US IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TATIVE OF ZURICH CANTONAL GOVERNMENT, HE HAS NEVER VISITED US IN

CAPACITY OF FEDERAL COUNCILOR. HE RECENTLY MADE VISIT TO SOVIET UNION WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE HERE. WHILE VISIT TO US WILL NOT HAVE OFFICIAL CHARACTER OF HIS VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, EMBASSY BELIEVES BRUGGER' S IMPORTANCE IN SWISS GOVERNMENT, HIS INVOLVEMENT IN MATTERS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE TO USG, AND HIS GENERAL LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH US SCENE JUSTIFY EFFORT TO MAKE HIS VISIT A SUCCESS. THEREFORE WE URGE EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO RECEIVE HIM AT HIGH LEVELS REQUESTED.

7. SEPARATE MESSAGE PROVIDES DETAILS OF TOPICS TO BE RAISED BY SWISS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERN01572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730448/aaaaiujr.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980127
Subject: VISIT OF SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR FOR PUBLIC ECONOMY BRUGGER TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, SZ
To: EC BRUSSELS
EUR
GENEVA
OECD PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

